

**U.S. Department of Labor  
Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO)  
Youth Opportunity Grants (YOG) Technical Assistance  
Update**

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The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Office of Youth Services/Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO) brings you the Youth Opportunity Grant (YOG) Technical Assistance Update. On a bi-weekly basis, the update will provide important announcements and information for YOG sites, partners, and coaches.

Please let us know if these updates are useful to you and how it might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have information or items to contribute, or topics that you would like see covered, please contact Susan Rosenblum, Office of Youth Opportunities, at [srosenblum@doleta.gov](mailto:srosenblum@doleta.gov) or (202) 693-3597.

***Film/Videography Workshop for YO! sites:*** In collaboration with the Philadelphia YO! site, the Office of Youth Opportunities is developing a two and a half day training session for staff from those sites who wish to receive instruction on how to teach and assist their young people in making films. The workshop will be held in Philadelphia, PA on October 18-21. Workshop space is limited and each site may only send one person. This training will be provided for free, however, sites will need to make and pay for travel arrangements for staff who will be attending the workshop. **Please send an e-mail to [astom@doleta.gov](mailto:astom@doleta.gov) by COB August 14 if you are interested in sending a staff person to the workshop.** For additional information, please contact Anne Stom, 202/693-3377.

***FEGS Youth Opportunity Center receives PEPNet Designation!*** The Federation Employment and Guidance Service (FEGS) will be recognized in Washington, DC on September 13 for demonstrating effectiveness in preparing youth for careers and independent learning. FEGS is a large, comprehensive, voluntary, not-for-profit human service organization, in operation since 1934. As one of 11 Youth Opportunity demonstration programs funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the New York City Department of Employment contracted with FEGS to offer centralized training and development services to out-of-school youth in the federal empowerment zone of the South Bronx. The FEGS/Youth Opportunity Center opened in January 1998. We congratulate FEGS on achieving this distinction and encourage all YO! Sites to participate in PEPNet, an initiative sponsored by the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC). PEPNet enables programs to engage in a self-assessment and a continuous improvement process, learning from initiatives recognized by PEPNET, and documenting evidence of their own activities that achieve superior results. For more information on PEPNet please

go to <http://www.nyec.org/pepnet>

***Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults With Disabilities (PTFEAD) Seeks Nominations for Youth Advisory Committee:***

The Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults With Disabilities (PTFEAD) invites nominations of young people, ages 14 to 28, to serve on its Youth Advisory Committee. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, chair of the PTFEAD, announced the establishment of a Youth Advisory Committee at the Labor Department's celebration of the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 2001. Information about the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary event is available on the Internet at <http://www.dol.gov/>.

The Youth Advisory Committee will provide youth and young adult perspectives to help the Task Force fulfill its mandate to make recommendations to the Secretary of Labor and her designees (including the Office of the 21st Century Workforce and the Office of Disability Employment Policy) on ways of addressing education, transition, health, rehabilitation, and independent living issues impacting the employment of young people with disabilities.

Members must be between the ages of 14 and 28 and will serve from the date of their appointment until the expiration of the Task Force on July 26, 2002, unless otherwise extended. The Advisory Committee will consist of a balanced, culturally diverse group of approximately 15 young people, representing a variety of disabling conditions, localities, and viewpoints who will be appointed by the Secretary of Labor. Self-nomination is also possible. For information on how to submit nominations, see the announcement in the Federal Register, August 3, 2001. You can also view the announcement on the Internet through the Office of Youth Services homepage at [www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services). Look under "What's New."

The deadline for submitting nominations is September 14, 2001. For more information, contact Christina Lo, Office of Youth Opportunities, (202) 693-3599 or e-mail: [clo@doleta.gov](mailto:clo@doleta.gov).

***Program Spotlight: YOG-Boston's Transitional Employment Program Features Community Service Projects***

(NOTE: The following article was submitted by Maddrey Goode, Coordinator at YOG Boston For more information please contact Maddrey via e-mail at [Maddrey.Goode.jcs@ci.boston.ma.us](mailto:Maddrey.Goode.jcs@ci.boston.ma.us)) Boston's Transitional Employment Program (TEP) is in full-swing now (entering its third week) and is active with several community projects, in several neighborhoods around the city. The TEP is broken-up into four teams of 20 young people (Each team is composed of 5 leaders and fifteen team members). The Team Leaders are generally young people aged 18 to 22, with some work experience and involvement with Youth Opportunity, but they are not yet ready for work in the private sector. The Team Members are generally 14 to 17 year-olds, with little or no work experience and (in most cases) have not been previously engaged with Youth Opportunity.

Each team has a Project Supervisor overseeing the day-to-day operations of the respective teams. The four teams are operating in the neighborhoods of Roxbury, South Boston, South End/Chinatown and Dorchester. Each Team has a theme around which community service projects have been developed. These themes include Education, Healthy Living, Careers and Athletics. Each team has developed a number of projects that are conducted at area housing developments, community based organizations, schools and parks. A Graduation Luncheon for TEP Summer Pilot will be held in August to promote and recognize that community agencies we worked with and plan to work with in the future,

to celebrate the work done by the groups in the different areas and to generate interest for new members in the program and recruit others into the program. You can read more about this project on the OYS home page ([http://www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services/](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/)). See "Program Spotlight"

***Ben & Jerry's Co-Founder Establishes Venture Philanthropy Fund:*** USA Today reports that Ben & Jerry's co-founder Ben Cohen has formed an investment fund to buy companies in low-income neighborhoods as a way of raising wages and improving employee benefits. The Barred Rock Fund, Cohen's first venture since he and partner Jerry Greenfield sold Ben & Jerry's to Unilever for \$326 million last year, recently closed its first deal, acquiring Sun & Earth, a Philadelphia-based cleaning products maker, in partnership with a local nonprofit. Started in 1994, Sun & Earth has fourteen employees and \$2.7 million in annual revenue. Barred Rock and its non-profit partner purchased 80 percent of the company, with the remaining 20 percent set aside for Sun & Earth employees. As a result of the deal, wages for Sun & Earth workers will increase by as much as 23 percent and employees will receive company health insurance for the first time. Profits generated by Sun & Earth will be used to buy other companies, said Cohen, and those companies will be run in a similar manner.

***The America Connects Consortium, funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education, has just announced its new Field Innovation Grant Program*** in support of the Community Technology Centers (CTCs). This grant program is designed to engage community technology practitioners in defining and addressing critical research or development needs. The Field Innovation Grant Program will identify and support short-term projects that address important questions or unmet needs, and that result in the creation of a product that can be used by other CTCs with similar needs or questions. Needs might include curriculum development, assessment, staff development, program design, or others. Examples of work products are assessment tools, curriculum, research protocols, white papers, or other materials that would be useful to CTCs and would further the development of strong community technology programs.

The application instructions for the Field Innovation Grant Program are available at: <http://www.americaconnects.net/research/default.asp?subid=26>. All U.S. Department of Education CTC grantees are eligible to apply, and other CTC programs that have been in operation for at least two years are eligible to apply. Grants will be made to nonprofit organizations and state, county, and local government agencies (such as school districts, parks systems, and libraries). For-profit entities and agencies of the federal government are not eligible. Applications are due 5 PM Eastern Time on Tuesday, August 28, 2001. For more information about this program, please contact Mr. Carlin Llorente, Education Specialist, America Connects Consortium at EDC, Phone 617.618.2736 or Email [cllorente@edc.org](mailto:cllorente@edc.org)

***Conference Focus on Sports Jobs for Millions With Disabilities:*** Disabled Sports USA will host a three day conference highlighting employment opportunities in sports and recreation for people with disabilities. Challenge 2001: Disabled Sports Employment Conference will be held September 5 through 7 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC.

Highlights include a series of seminars on such topics as hiring guidelines and work place accommodations specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), interviewing techniques, recreation accessibility laws, small business opportunities, and federal "Ticket to Work" programs with

new healthcare benefits. The September conference is aimed at career counselors, human resource directors, recreation specialists, rehabilitation therapists, public and private employers, and people with a wide variety of disabilities. The third day of the event will feature demonstrations of adaptive sports and recreation near the Washington Monument. Presentations will include rock climbing, cycling, wheeling, and the use of adaptive sports equipment. Local school children with disabilities will participate in these activities. For more information go to: <http://www.dsusa.org/empconf-info.htm>

Conference registration may be made with Disabled Sports USA at 451 Hungerford Dr., Suite 100, Rockville, MD 20850; phone 301- 217-0960, TTY 301--217-0963, or fax 301-217-0968.

### ***Important Dates to Remember***

**September 5 - 7:** Challenge 2001: Disabled Sports Employment Conference at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC. For more information <http://www.dsusa.org/empconf-info.htm>

**September 14:** Nominations due for the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults With Disabilities (PRFEAD) Youth Advisory Committee. See story above.

**September 13 - 14:** The PEPNet 2001 Institute Doubletree Crystal City, Arlington, VA. The annual Promising and Effective Practices Network (PEPNet) Institute is a unique, interactive conference that connects professionals to what works in youth employment programming. The highly acclaimed Institute has sold out early every year-so register now! **WORKSHOP INFORMATION IS NOW AVAILABLE AT** <http://www.nyec.org/pepnet/instituteworkshops01.htm>

For more information, visit [www.nyec.org/pepnet\\_institute](http://www.nyec.org/pepnet_institute). See the flyer in PDF format at [www.nyec.org/Institute01.pdf](http://www.nyec.org/Institute01.pdf) or contact NYEC at (202) 659-1064. (E-mail: [nyec@nyec.org](mailto:nyec@nyec.org).)

**September 19 - 22, 2001:** Fifth Annual Biennial Conference on Your City's Families in Minneapolis, MN sponsored by the Institute for Youth, Education and Families of the National League of Cities. For more information go to their web site at <http://www.nlc.org> or call 202/626-3000

**September 20:** Teleconference: Myths, Facts and Illicit Drugs: What You Should Know; the 4<sup>th</sup> in a four-part series is on marijuana. All viewing sites must register in advance to receive the necessary satellite coordinates. Sites may register through the Internet by logging on to: <http://www.dlnets.com/cd/htm> or calling 887-820-0305.

**October 18 - 21:** Film workshop for YO! grantees in Philadelphia, PA. E-mail [astom@doleta.gov](mailto:astom@doleta.gov) for more information.

**October 24, 2001:** National Disability Mentoring Day, a cooperative effort between the Department of Labor, the Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities and the AAPD